Summary

1.   **Claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-15, 17-19 and 21-25** are pending and allowed in the application. Please see the examiner's amendment and reasons for allowance below.

Examiner's Amendment

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record is attached to the Office Action. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Scott S Adams Reg. 63,302 on 11 September 2009. See attached interview summary.

Allowable Subject Matter

3.   **Claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-15, 17-19 and 21-25** are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

Specification

4.   The examiner changes the title of the invention to:

"Six Sigma Enabled Web-Based Business Intelligence System"

5.   The following claims represent the claims pending in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of presenting an analysis of enterprise wide business data, the enterprise wide business data collectively stored in a plurality of data repositories, comprising the steps of:

collecting transactional data from the plurality of data repositories into warehouse data stored in a uniform format in a data warehouse;

in response to a first user request to a web site operable to access said warehouse data and to provide statistical analysis, including six sigma analysis of said enterprise wide business data, transferring an electronic document to said user, wherein said electronic document allows said user to select parameters for a data set in said enterprise wide business data and a performance measure to be analyzed for the data set defined by the parameters;

in response to a second request from said user to said website, performing statistical analysis including six sigma statistical analysis of said performance measure for said data set according to said parameters; ~~and~~

transferring results of said statistical analysis to said user, said results including a histogram and an indicator of a target limit specified by said user, wherein an area of the histogram outside the target limit is highlighted so as

to differentiate the area of the histogram outside of the target limit from the area
of the histogram inside of the target limit, and wherein a relative number of
defects are graphically visible with the results;

in response to an electronic request from said user to said website,
running a simulation to determine the effect that varying a statistical parameter
specified by said user of a plurality of statistical parameters has on another
statistical parameter; and

electronically transferring the results of said simulation to said user
over a communications network, wherein the user is presented a graphical
display providing information to assist in quality improvement.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said
transferring comprises:

transferring a Hyper-Text Markup Language document comprising
said results of said statistical analysis in histogram format.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2 further comprising:
overlaying on said histogram an indicator of a statistical mean and
[[an]] the indicator of [[a]] the target limit specified by said user.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[5]] 1 wherein said
plurality of statistical parameters comprise statistical mean, standard deviation, a
user specified target, actual percentage of data above and below said user
specified target, and sigma value.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further
comprising the steps of:

in response to a request from said user to said website to determine a trend of a statistical parameter over time, determining said trend; and

electronically transferring a Hyper-Text Markup Language document comprising a display of said trend.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein said statistical parameter is a sigma value.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
determining if a particular statistical parameter for said performance measure is outside a particular target specified by said user; and
automatically providing a notification to said user if said particular statistical parameter is outside the particular target, wherein said notification comprises an electronically delivered message to a user specified node.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9 wherein said determining comprises:
analyzing said performance measure according to a periodic rate specified by said user.

11. (Currently Amended) An Internet-based system comprising:
a plurality of data repositories collectively comprising transactional business data from across an enterprise;
a computer system including at least one processor, said computer system operable to use said at least one processor to access said data repositories, to collect data from said data repositories into a data warehouse comprising warehouse data stored in a uniform format, to perform a statistical analysis, including six sigma analysis, of said warehouse data, to receive user-generated requests via the Internet for execution of a user-defined statistical analysis of a user-selected performance measure for said warehouse data according to user-defined parameters of a dataset in said warehouse data, to

deliver Hyper-Text Markup Language document via the Internet to an Internet
node in response to said user-generated analysis requests, wherein said Hyper-
Text Markup Language document directs a browser to provide graphical display
of said statistical analysis ~~including~~ including:

the statistical variance of said performance ~~measure~~

measure;

a histogram of an indicator of a target limit specified by said
user, wherein an area of the histogram outside the target limit is
highlighted so as to differentiate the area of the histogram outside of the
target limit from the area of the histogram inside of the target limit, and
wherein a relative number of defects are graphically visible in said
graphical display; and

wherein the computer system is operable to use said at least one
processor to respond to an electronically transferred request from an Internet
node to perform a statistical simulation, and to electronically transfer a Hyper-
Text Markup Language document comprising the results of said statistical
simulation, wherein a user is allowed to view a web-page which displays said
statistical simulation.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The Internet-based system of Claim 11
wherein said computer system is further operable to:

analyze said transactional business data to determine if a statistical
parameter for a performance measure is outside a user specified target, and if
so, to automatically notify said user, wherein said notification comprises an
electronic message to a user specified electronic address.

14. (Currently Amended) The Internet-based system of Claim 11
wherein said computer system is further operable to:

format said statistical analysis in histogram format~~, wherein the
statistical variation in said performance measure is graphically presented to said~~

~~user through a web-page, and to overlay on said histogram an indicator of a user specified limit, wherein a representation of data that lie outside the limit is graphically visible~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of implementing a business intelligence system in a distributed computing environment, said method comprising the steps of:

in response to a user-generated request received from a peripheral computer system, transferring, from a host computer system, an electronic document to said peripheral computer system, wherein said electronic document has selectable fields for a plurality of dimensions to select a data set accessible by said host computer system, said data set from a plurality of data repositories having transactional data stored therein;

in response to a user-generated request received from said peripheral computer for a statistical analysis, including six sigma analysis, of a user-selected performance measure for said data set, performing said statistical analysis at the host computer system;

transferring from said host computer system an electronically viewable version of said statistical analysis to said peripheral computer system, <u>said results including a histogram and an indicator of a target limit specified by said user, wherein an area of the histogram outside the target limit is highlighted so as to differentiate the area of the histogram outside of the target limit from the area of the histogram inside of the target limit, and wherein a relative number of defects are graphically visible with the results</u>; ~~and~~

collecting said data from a plurality of databases; ~~and~~

formatting said data in a single format, wherein data from multiple databases in multiple formats is converted to a single format and stored on a single database, and wherein said peripheral computer system does not have direct access to said databases;

<u>in response to an electronic request received from the peripheral computer system, running a simulation to determine the effect that varying a</u>

statistical parameter specified by said user of a plurality of statistical parameters
has on another statistical parameter; and

electronically transferring the results of said simulation to said
peripheral computer system over a communications network for graphical display
to the user for providing information to assist in quality improvement.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15 further
comprising providing a standardized presentation of said statistical analysis to
multiple distributed peripheral computer systems.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein said
transferring comprises:

formatting said statistical analysis in graphical format, wherein the
variance of said data set is graphically viewable.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein said
formatting comprises highlighting data points which are outside of [[a]] the target
range in a manner differentiating said data points outside of the target range from
data points within the target range, wherein the relative number of defective data
are viewable.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A computer-readable storage medium having stored
thereon instructions for causing a computer system to perform a method of
presenting an analysis of enterprise wide business data, the enterprise wide
business data collectively stored in a plurality of data repositories, the method
comprising the steps of:

collecting transactional data from the plurality of data repositories
into warehouse data stored in a uniform format in a data warehouse;

in response to a first user request to a web site operable to access said warehouse data and to provide statistical analysis, including six sigma analysis of said enterprise wide business data, transferring an electronic document to said user, wherein said electronic document allows said user to select parameters for a data set in said enterprise wide business data and a performance measure to be analyzed for the data set defined by the parameters;

in response to a second request from said user to said website, performing statistical analysis including six sigma statistical analysis of said performance measure for said data set according to said parameters;

transferring results of said statistical analysis to said user, said results including a histogram and an indicator of a target limit specified by said user, wherein an area of the histogram outside the target limit is highlighted so as to differentiate the area of the histogram outside of the target limit from the area of the histogram inside of the target limit, and wherein a relative number of defects are graphically visible with the results;

in response to an electronic request from said user to said website, running a simulation to determine the effect that varying a statistical parameter specified by said user of a plurality of statistical parameters has on another statistical parameter; and

electronically transferring the results of said simulation to said user over a communications network, wherein the user is presented a graphical display providing information to assist in quality improvement.

22. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises:

in response to a request from said user to said website to determine a trend of a statistical parameter over time, determining said trend; and

electronically transferring a Hyper-Text Markup Language document comprising a display of said trend.

23. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises overlying on said histogram an indicator of a statistical mean and the indicator of the target limit.

24. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises:

determining if a particular statistical parameter for said performance measure is outside a particular target specified by said user; and

automatically providing a notification to said user if said particular statistical parameter is outside the particular target, wherein said notification comprises an electronically delivered message to a user specified node.

25. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein said determining comprises analyzing said performance measure according to a periodic rate specified by said user.

Reasons for Allowance

6.   The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art references most closely resembling the Applicant's claimed invention are **Merrill**, **Cawse** and **Hsuing**.

Applicant's arguments filed on May 20, 2009 (page 16 in particular) are deemed to be persuasive and adequately reflect the Examiner's opinion as to why claims 1-8, 14-21 and 27-34 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Here the applicant argues that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to adapt the teachings of Cawse to apply the analysis techniques to transactional data. Also, the applicant argues the newly amended limitation of claim 4 distinguishes over Cawse. These limitations, as recited in independent claims 1, (using six sigma techniques for transactional data) with the newly amended limitation of highlighting the histogram further in combination with running a simulation to determine the effect of one statistical parameter on another statistical parameter would not be reasonably combined by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to render the claimed invention obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan G. Sterrett whose telephone number is 571-272-6881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Beth V Boswell can be reached on 571-272-6737.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JGS /9-11-09/

/Jonathan G. Sterrett/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3623